

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-25 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 OMB-01

ACDA-19 SAJ-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 OIC-04 DRC-01 NSCE-00

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R 140840Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0230

INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3513

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECAFE, VS, CB, IN

SUBJ: ECAFE: PRG AND KHMER ISSUES; INDIAN RELATIONS WITH
SOUTH VIETNAM AND KHMER REPUBLIC

REF: STATE 46743

SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO OUR APPROACHES TO THE MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON THE PRG AND KHMER ISSUE AT ECAFE, THE
INDIANS HAVE MAINTAINED THEY WILL MAKE DECISION JUST PRIOR
TO THE SESSION AND THAT US VIEWS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.
HOWEVER, VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE PRG AT THE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE
AND REFERENCE BY MEA OFFICERS TO THE PRG AS AN ENTITY THAT
SHOULD BE REPRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES INDICATE
TO US THE INDIANS MAY SUPPORT THE PRG AT COLOMBO. THEY SEEM
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TO HAVE MOVED VERY SLIGHTLY TOWARD THE COMMUNIST POSITION IN

THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD BOTH CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM.
END SUMMARY.

1. DRAWING ON POINTS OUTLINED REFTEL, AN EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED FORTHCOMING ECAFE SESSION WITH DIRECTORS OF BOTH UN AND EAST ASIA DIVISIONS OF MEA. HE SAID WE REGRETTED INDIAN VOTE IN FAVOR OF PRG AT THE GENEVA LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. USG ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS ISSUE AND REQUESTED INDIAN HELP IN AVOIDING DISCUSSION OF PRG ADMITTANCE OR KHMER CREDENTIALS AT THE COLOMBO MEETING. IF INDIA WOULD NOT VOTE AGAINST THESE MOVES, USG HOPED IT WOULD AT LEAST ABSTAIN.

2. THE MEA OFFICERS CITED GENERAL INDIAN SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSALITY AT UN CONFERENCE, RELEVANCE OF LAW OF WAR TO PRG, AND INDIAN VIEW THAT PRG WAS "AN ENTITY" THAT SHOULD BE REPRESENTED AT RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AS REASONS FOR INDIAN VOTE AT GENEVA. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED NON-ALIGNED PRESSURE HAD NOT BEEN A DECISIVE FACTOR IN INDIA'S PRO-PRG VOTE (AS WAS EVIDENT FROM OVERALL TALLY). DECISION ON BOTH PRG AND KHMER ISSUES AT ECAFE WOULD BE TAKEN JUST PRIOR TO THE SESSION BY INTERESTED MEA OFFICES AND PROBABLY APPROVED AT LEVEL BELOW THAT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER. PRECEDENT IN INDIAN VOTING WOULD BE IMPORTANT BUT NOT NECESSARILY DETERMINING FACTOR.

3. EAST ASIA DIVISION DIRECTOR MAINTAINED RECENT VOTE FOR PRG DID NOT REPRESENT A CHANGE IN INDIAN POLICY OR ANY NEW ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM. THE GOI CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE PRG BUT HAD NOT RECOGNIZED IT DESPITE SOME PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURE (FROM COMMUNISTS). HE HOPED THE US WOULD RECOGNIZE INDIA WAS ACTING WITH SOME RESTRAINT IN THIS REGARD. AS FOR THE KHMER REPUBLIC, THE LAST INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN PHNOM PENH, A THIRD SECRETARY, HAD RETURNED TO DELHI MARCH 7. DECISION ON HIS DEPARTURE HAD BEEN TAKEN ON GROUNDS OF PERSONAL SECURITY AND GOI COULD NOT EXPOSE ITSELF TO CRITICISM AT HOME BY INSISTING HE STAY. LON NOL REPRESENTATIVES REMAINED AT "CAMBODIAN EMBASSY" IN DELHI AND STAYED IN TOUCH WITH THE GOI. INDIANS STILL PLANNED TO AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS "ON THE GROUND" BEFORE DECIDING ON ANY CHANGE IN PRESENT SITUATION REGARDING REPRESENTATION.

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4. SOUTH VIETNAM CONSUL TOLD US HE ALSO MADE DEMARCH ON ISSUE OF PRG AT ECAFE AND LEFT A NOTE ON THE SUBJECT WITH MEA EAST ASIA DIVISION. HE WAS PUZZLED BY THE INDIANS VOTE AT GENEVA SINCE HE KNEW OF NO DEVELOPMENTS TO EXPLAIN INDIAN ACTION. INDIAN RELATIONS WITH SOUTH VIETNAM SEEMED TO HIM TO BE AT A STANDSTILL. THERE HAD BEEN NO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF VISITS TO SAIGON BY INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY OR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GROUPS--VISITS WHICH HAD BEEN CANCELED AT THE LAST MINUTE IN JANUARY.

5. KHMER CHARGE MECH SARY TOLD US MEA OFFICIALS GAVE HIM THE SAME LINE WE HAD RECEIVED.

6. COMMENT: THE INDIANS HAVE CUT THE SALAMI SLIGHTLY CLOSER TO THE COMMUNIST POSITION ON CAMBODIAN AND SOUTH VIETNAM ISSUES. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO PLAY A CAUTIOUS GAME BUT IS SENSITIVE TO COMMUNIST PRESSURES. IT MAY HAVE DECIDED IN RECENT PRO-PRG VOTE TO TOSS A RELATIVELY SMALL FISH TO ITS COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA SUPPORTERS WHO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR RECOGNITION OF BOTH THE PRG AND SIHANOUK. POL COUNSELOR OR DCM WILL GO BACK TO INDIANS AT HIGHER LEVEL NEXT WEEK TO UNDERLINE US CONCERN AGAIN.
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